

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Section 103(a) Rejections:

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18-20, 22, 23, 25 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patel et al. (U.S. Patent 6,865,185) (hereinafter “Patel”) in view of Crosbie (U.S. Publication 2002/0035699), claims 3, 12 and 21 as being unpatentable over Crosbie in view of Ayyagari et al. (U.S. Publication 2001/0024434) (hereinafter “Ayyagari”), claims 6, 15 and 24 as being unpatentable over Crosbie in view of Zara et al. (U.S. Patent 7,206,848) (hereinafter “Zara”), claims 8, 17 and 26 as being unpatentable over Patel and Crosbie in view of Vange (U.S. Publication 2002/0059170). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Regarding claim 1, the cited art fails to teach or suggest *wherein said request includes information indicating a current user role and establishing a quality of service context based on the current user role indicated in said information included in said request and based on said policy data*. The Examiner admits that Patel does not disclose receiving a request that includes information indicating a current user role. The Examiner states, “However, including such information in user requests within a QoS system was well known in the art at the time of Applicant’s invention as evidenced by Crosbie.” Applicant asserts, however, that **Crosbie does not teach including this information in user requests**, as the Examiner has suggested.

The Examiner has cited paragraphs [0043-0045] of Crosbie as teaching the above-referenced limitations, noting that Crosbie teaches utilizing user IDs to identify users that belong to different clusters (e.g., history or engineering students), and that Crosbie teaches specifying a bandwidth allocation on the WLAN depending on the user’s role.

However, in Crosbie, information indicating the role of a user (or a cluster to which the user belongs) is not included in a received request, as required by Applicant's claim. Instead, in Crosbie, a received request includes information identifying the user. In Crosbie, cluster information, i.e. information indicating that a user is a member of a cluster, and information specifying the access privileges for members of the cluster (which may include a bandwidth allocation on the WLAN) is stored on the gateway server and is subsequently located by the gateway server to determine access privileges in response to receiving a request. Thus, neither Patel nor Crosbie teaches that the received request includes information indicating the role of a user.

The Examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified Patel's service requests to include information indicating a current user role as taught by Crosbie, stating, "Such a modification is an example of using a known technique (including a current user role in service requests) to improve similar systems (both Patel and Crosbie are directed to QoS systems) in the same way (Crosbie teaches that including a user's role in his service request allows the system to distinguish users based on their specific roles, 0014, 0043)." However, as noted above, neither Patel nor Crosbie teaches that the received request includes information indicating the role of a user. Therefore, the proposed combination would not result in Applicant's claimed invention. Although Crosbie distinguishes users based on their roles, Crosbie **does not teach** including information indicating a current user role in service requests. Rather, Crosbie teaches storing this information (i.e. cluster information) on a gateway server, and the gateway server locating the stored information to determine access privileges for members of a cluster in response to receiving a service request that includes information identifying a user, but not the user's current role. Therefore, combining the teachings of Crosbie with the system of Patel would result in a system in which user role information (including a mapping of user identifiers to user roles/clusters, and specification of access privileges for users of a particular user role/cluster) is stored on gateway server (such as one or more of the gateway servers of Patel) and used by the gateway server(s) to determine access privileges and/or a QoS context. Applicant asserts that nothing in either reference, whether taken alone or in combination, teaches or

suggests any reason to include a user role in a service request or any reason that such a modification would improve either system, since the system of Crosbie is clearly able to distinguish users based on their roles without including this information in the service requests.

For at least the reasons above, the rejection of claim 1 is unsupported by the cited art and removal thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 19 include limitations similar to those of claim 1, and so the arguments presented above apply similarly to these claims, as well.

Applicant also asserts that numerous ones of the dependent claims recite further distinctions over the cited art. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of these claims for at least the reasons given above in regard to the claims from which they depend. However, since the rejections have been shown to be unsupported for the independent claims, a further discussion of the dependent claims is not necessary at this time. Applicant reserves the right to present additional arguments.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-90800/RCK.

Respectfully submitted,

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